



Henry County, Virginia

E-Newsletter from the official website of Henry County, VA

Henry County Monthly Newsletter

February 2010

Complete Count Committee formed locally to assist with 2010 Census

Henry County and the City of Martinsville have formed a Complete Count Committee to create awareness of the 2010 Census.

Henry County representatives on the committee are Tim Hall, Melany Stowe, Paula Burnette, Max Hall, and Brian Hairston. City of Martinsville representatives are Stanley Grant, Ethel Johnson, Gloria Hylton, and Lardenia Campbell. The creation of the committee was authorized by Martinsville City Council and the Henry County Board of Supervisors, and members were selected by the respective staffs.

The Committee's purpose is to bring awareness to the 2010 Census and the importance of being counted. Census Day is April 1, 2010, and all addresses in Martinsville and Henry County should receive their Census forms in the mail prior to that date.

"It is vitally important that everyone be counted," Tim Hall said. "Each person counted could potentially mean more federal and state money for projects in Martinsville and Henry County. That translates into more opportunities for the community."

The 2010 Census form has been simplified so that most households can complete it in about 10 minutes. By law, none of the data on the form can be released to any other state or federal agency.

"Census employees can serve up to five years in prison and pay a fine up to \$250,000 if they release any personal information on anyone," Hall said. "The only requirement is that the data must be released to the President of the United States by December 31, 2010, and even then it's just numbers - no names, no personal information."

The Complete Count Committee will work over the next few weeks to create awareness of the Census. Members are available to speak to civic groups, church groups, neighborhood associations, and media outlets. Please contact Tim Hall at 634-4605 if you are interested in having a committee member speak to your group.

Additional information can be obtained by visiting www.2010census.gov; www.henrycountyva.gov; or www.martinsville-va.gov.

Spencer-Penn leader nets Jack Dalton Award

Mary Jordan, the driving force in the transformation of Spencer-Penn from a closed elementary school to a vibrant center of the community, is the 2009 winner of the Jack Dalton Community Service Award.

The award annually goes to the Henry County resident who best demonstrates the exemplary community service that marked Dalton's years of public service. Dalton served as a member of the Henry County Board of Supervisors for more than 24 years, and was serving as the Board Chairman at the time of his death on May 24, 2000.

"We are all aware of the wonderful work being done at Spencer-Penn," said Board chairman Debra Buchanan. "She truly is making an impact in our community. I cannot think of a better

recipient of this award than Mary Jordan, and it is an honor to be a part of it."

Jordan serves as the president of the Spencer-Penn Centre, a former elementary school turned community center, and she was instrumental in the facility receiving national historic landmark notice. Jordan was named the 2008 winner of the Local Nonprofit Leaders Network's Leader of the Year award as presented by the United Way. Earlier this year a part of the Centre was renamed the "Mary Jordan Family Fun Zone" in recognition of her tireless efforts at the Centre.

Jordan's connection with Spencer-Penn is a long one. Spencer-Penn Elementary School served the community from 1927 to 2004, and Jordan taught at the school for 32 of those years. The Family Fun Zone, which adjoins the library, was Jordan's former kindergarten classroom.

Nominations for the Jack Dalton Award were solicited from community residents through local media and the Henry Count website, www.henrycountyva.gov. Nominations are based on the candidate's personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping promote the quality of life in Henry County.

Previous recipients of the honor include Dr. Calvin Rains, Bill Adkins, Clay Campbell, Mary McGee, Charles Bradshaw, the Rev. Thurman Echols, and Nancy Bradshaw.

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